

that is commonly found in US archaeology (salvage archaeology to historic preservation to cultural resource management). One paper that falls within both realms is an update on the Easter Island Statue Project, by Jo Anne Van Tilburg, Cristián Arévalo Pakarati, Peter Boniface, and Alice Hom, a project dedicated to the inventory of "every monolithic stone sculpture" on Rapa Nui or that was on Rapa Nui (that is, it includes those transported to other places in the world).

There are four papers on Polynesian human skeletal biology, two are concerned with Rapa Nui variation, one focuses on Henderson crania for the biological relationship with other island populations, and the fourth (by Vincent H. Stefan) focuses on Polynesian nasal morphology as a possible indicator of climatic adaptation, but has an extensive discussion of the potential sources of Polynesian general morphology.

There are four chapters that are cultural and explicitly non-archaeological. One of these, "Anthropology and History," contains the majority of the Spanish language articles (9), most of which are from Chilean authors, and nine of the ten papers in the chapter focus on Rapa Nui (the tenth is about Juan Fernández). These studies are generally valuable contributions to cultural research in the Pacific, emphasizing problems of cultural contact, colonial entities, and the nature of cultural identification in the modern world. The papers in the three other cultural chapters generally contribute to this broad theme. One of these chapters is "Arts in the Pacific" with two papers devoted to the Marquesas and three to Rapa Nui (including one comparison with the Chatham's Rekohu), most concerned with recognition and changes in traditional art forms. The six-paper chapter on "Language and Culture" has one paper on Mangareva, with the others focusing on Rapa Nui, although with comparative concerns. One of these papers, by Steve Pagel, analyzes the influences of Spanish on Chamoru and Rapanui. A very welcome contribution to this collection is a paper by Serge Dunis, who summarizes his research on Rapanui and Hawaiian creation chants and the significance for understanding the distribution of the sweet potato and related cultural motifs. A general session chapter with three papers has a valuable study by Francesc Amorós i Gonnell that abstracts ethnographic and linguistic information from 19th Century Capuchin records concerning Western Micronesia.

One of the often-expressed truisms of research in the Pacific is that it is a laboratory for the study of human adaptation. Well and good, but this concept is often allowed inappropriately to shift to a focus on individual islands as laboratories rather than as cases (or so-called experiments). Of course Easter Island is the most egregious example of this, particularly in popularized ecological writing. Individual cases tell us very little until they are placed within a controlled comparative context. The term "controlled" here can be understood, on one hand, to mean that the elements of change and historical succession of events are well understood for each of the cases to be compared, and on the other hand to mean that the analytical framework has been created. Unfortunately, I do not see that either of these conditions has been met in Pacific research. For Rapa Nui, for example, pa-

pers in this volume demonstrate that there is yet much to learn about its history, and it cannot yet be filed as a record of a completed experiment. In general in the Pacific some of the most critical conditions for these studies have not been met (such as the date of colonization) or the extent of long-range interaction and the abilities for two-way voyaging, which as Atholl Anderson points out (in the first paper in the volume, the Keynote Address) "is the oldest and still one of the most important issues in Polynesian prehistory." Anderson's paper, "Distance Looks our Way: Remoteness and Isolation in Early East and South Polynesia," establishes the two variables noted in the title (remoteness and isolation) as part of the analytical framework that will ultimately be necessary for realizing the Pacific's potential to be a cultural and historical laboratory.

Archaeology of Oceania. Australia and the Pacific Islands

Ian Lilley, ed. 2006.

Blackwell Studies in Global Archaeology. Hard cover: ISBN-13: 978-0-631-23082-3, Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0-631-23083-0. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, Inc. 396 pages. Black/white photographs, line drawings, graphs, maps.

Review by Georgia Lee

Archaeology of Oceania, Australia and the Pacific Islands is described as a state-of-the-art introduction to archaeology of Oceania, and claims to be the first to integrate Australian studies with that of the Pacific Islands. The Introduction is by Ian Lilley and is titled, "Archaeology in Oceania: Themes and Issues" and it is followed by three sections: Part I: Australia; Part 2: The Pacific; and Part 3: Politics.

This book addresses five themes in regard to the archaeology of Oceania: colonization, interaction, cultural diversification, environmental change, and contemporary politics. The stated goal is to introduce readers to a diversity of current approaches to archaeology in Australia and the islands of the Pacific. The first six chapters deal with Australia and comprise 1/3 of the book. It is unusual to find Australia included; the editor states this was done because it was once joined by low sea levels in the Pleistocene. The second section, another 1/3, deals with Pacific islands and contains 9 chapters. The final section, Part 3, Politics, is shorter, with 3 chapters.

As the middle section, "The Pacific," is most likely to interest readers of RNJ, I will discuss that portion in more detail. There are nine papers: Archaeology in Melanesia: A Case Study from the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, by Richard Walter and Peter Sheppard; Envisioning Early Agriculture in the Highlands of New Guinea, by Tim Denham; Late Pleistocene Complexities in the Bismarck Archipelago, by Matthew Leavesley; Life before Lapita: New Developments in Melanesia's Long-Term History, by Christina Pavlides; The First Millennium B.C. in Remote Oceania: An Alternative Perspective on Lapita, by Jean-Christophe Galipaud; Ethnoarchaeology in Polynesia, by Eric Conte; The Formation of Hawaiian Territories, by Theng Ladefoged and

Michael Graves; Ritual and Domestic Architecture, Sacred Places, and Images: Archaeology in the Marquesas Archipelago, French Polynesia, by Sidsel Millerstrom; and The Archaeology of the Conical Clan in Micronesia, by Paul Rainbird.

As can be seen, only three papers deal with Polynesia, and none address our favorite island in the center of the world – despite their use of a birdman figure from Easter Island as the logo for the book. New Zealand gets a short paragraph in the introduction, as does Samoa.

Conte discusses the importance of ethnographic analogy that becomes more and more urgent as elders die and life-ways change. Some technologies have been maintained with enough continuity to allow for this approach, with assistance of the Polynesian societies themselves.

Ladefoged and Graves describe Hawaiian political and community territories that were organized in complex ways, and attempt to explain patterns of spatial variation of complex Hawaiian chiefdoms. Such divisions may have occurred over centuries and may have been in response to productivity within divisions, or due to the rise of complex chiefdoms that altered boundaries for political purposes.

Millerstrom's paper on Marquesan archaeology concerns ritual architecture and art and how these were associated or how they varied. Her study includes separating ritual architecture from chiefly household units and studying variations and associations. Her survey indicates that, in the valleys of Taipivai, Hakapa'a, Hatiheu, and Anaho, ritual architectural complexes often were built on narrow ridges; most were extensive with multiple terraces, and some had petroglyphs in the shrine, as well as one or more statues.

I thought the papers somewhat uneven and the extensive coverage of Australia, while interesting, was overwhelming for a book supposedly about Oceania.

Easter Island and Its Mysteries

by Stéphen-Charles Chauvet

Originally published as *L'île de Pâques et ses Mystères*, "TEL":Paris, 1935, 86 p., 68 plates. English translation published online in 2005 at www.chauvet-translation.com

Review by Paul Horley

EVERYONE TRYING TO GATHER a bookshelf devoted to Easter Island is well familiar with the difficulties of this task, as numerous titles dedicated to the turbulent *Rapa Nui* history and its vast cultural heritage are out-of-print for years. Moreover, many are written in Spanish, French, German, etc., which poses an additional barrier for the Anglophone reader. This situation was significantly improved by the successful project of bringing us a book translated into English from French and compiling several valuable accounts of early Easter Island visitors, published by the Easter Island Foundation. Yet another great advance was made in the past year, resulting in a wonderful web-site dedicated to the classic French book about *Rapa Nui* written by Dr. Stéphen-Charles Chauvet, translated into English by Ann M. Altman, edited and de-

signed for web presentation by Shawn McLaughlin.

Originally published in the first half of 20th century, the book contained a large amount of data about Easter Islanders, their land, customs, religion and art. In addition, it featured 68 plates with 186 figures – a unique gallery where one could find early maps of the island (made by the expedition of González de Haedo in 1770 and by the officers of the corvette *O'Higgins* in 1870), old drawings and etchings (from the accounts of Cook, La Pérouse, Dupetit-Thouars, Kotzebue, Vi-aud, and Pinart), historic photos of the island sites (by Thomson, Delabaude, Bienvenido de Estella, and Shapiro), as well as an impressive photographic collection of Easter Island artifacts including wooden statuettes and large stone images, spear points, bone and stone fishhooks, skulls with engravings, ceremonial paddles, *rongorongo* tablets, and adornments.

Now, one can truly enjoy the on-line version of this book, superbly translated into English with correction of numerous Chauvet misspellings. It is even easier to read than the paper version, mainly due to searchable text and a single mouse click access to the figures referenced in the text. All the illustrations are scanned in high-resolution, featuring very good details, at the same time generally of medium file size that ensures a fast download. If necessary, the overall composition of the plates can be seen in low-resolution scans, accommodated with the detailed captions for every figure on the "Figure legends" page.

The site follows the subdivision of the original book into the chapters entitled "Easter Island," "The Easter Islanders," "Flora and fauna," "Monuments and megaliths," "Carved wooden objects," and "The talking tablets of Easter Island," each presented as an individual web-page. Comments appearing in each chapter are added with numerous translator/editor notes (given in italics), clarifying particular statements and supplying the reader with modern information and corresponding literature references regarding the topics discussed. The bibliography from the book is presented "as is" in the verbatim; a separate page entitled "Current sources and further reading" lists more than 170 modern references. In addition, the site also presents biographical information about Stéphen Chauvet himself, which increases the overall presentation integrity of this impressive new translation project.

PUBLICATIONS

- Allen, Tricia. 2006. *Tattoo Traditions of Hawai'i*. A near-complete compilation of all early ethnohistoric illustrations and references on Hawaiian tattoo, including a number of previously unpublished original Arago illustrations from 1819. 230 pages. \$17.95 Mutual Publishing, Honolulu. <http://www.tattootraditions.alohaworld.com>
- Angleviel, F. 2005. Des géants de pierre à l'homme-oiseau. Les manifestations de la religion ancienne de l'île de Pâques. *Religions and Histoire* (Paris) 4, Sept-Oct., 72-81.
- Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association*, Vol. 25. Indo-Pacific Prehistory: The Taipei Papers, Volume 3.